

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 through 68. **(Canceled)**

69. **(Previously Presented)** A method for making a tubular film comprising the steps of:

winding a thermoplastic sheet film on a columnar member with at least two turns so that leading and trailing ends of the wound film are positioned approximately on a line normal to an outer surface of the columnar member without overlapping each other;

fitting a tubular molding member over the wound film; and

connecting the leading and trailing ends of the film by heating the wound film, the columnar member, and the tubular molding member up to a temperature at which the wound film is softened, thereby forming the wound film into the tubular film.

70. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein a thermal expansion coefficient of the columnar member is larger than a thermal expansion coefficient of the tubular molding member.

71. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein when the wound film is in a heated state, a tubular film with a thickness is obtained in accordance with a gap between the columnar member and the tubular molding member.

72. **(Previously Presented)** The film according to claim 69, wherein the leading and trailing ends of the wound film are butted against each other to form a butted portion.

73. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 72, wherein the two ends of the wound film are obliquely cut to form a spirally-formed butted portion.

74. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 72, wherein an angle formed between the butted leading and trailing ends is 90° with respect to a film surface.

75. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 72, wherein an angle formed between the butted leading and trailing ends is other than 90° with respect to a film surface.

76. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein said sheet film is made from at least one material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyethersulfone, and a fluorine resin.--